



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Apostle Islands  
National Lakeshore

415 Washington Ave.  
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

715 779-3397 phone  
715 779-3049 fax

---

## Apostle Islands News Release

**Release date:**           **Immediate**

**Contact(s):**           **Neil Howk (NPS)**

**Phone number:**       **(715) 779-3397 ext. 302**

**Date:**                   **May 16, 2012**

### Thanking America's Armed Forces

#### Active Duty U.S. Military Offered Free Entrance to All National Parks

Bayfield, WI – To show our appreciation for those who serve in the U.S. Military, on May 19 – Armed Forces Day – the National Park Service will begin issuing an [annual pass](#) offering free entrance to all 397 national parks for active duty military members and their dependents.

“We all owe a debt to those who sacrifice so much to protect our country,” said Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent Bob Krumenaker. “We are proud to recognize these brave men and women and hope that a visit to this or any national park will offer an opportunity to unwind, relax, rejuvenate, and just have fun with their families.”

Active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents can pick up their pass at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’s Headquarters Visitor Center at the corner of Washington Avenue and Fourth Street in Bayfield. Starting May 21, the visitor center is open daily from 8 am to 4:30 pm. They must show a current, valid military identification card to obtain their pass. More information is available at [www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm).

This military version of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass also permits free entrance to sites managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service. The pass is also available at these locations. The pass does not apply to other fees such as camping, docking, or parking. Pass holders are still responsible to pay those types of user fees.

“Through the years, military members, especially those far from home in times of conflict, have found inspiration in America’s patriotic icons and majestic landscapes, places like the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon that are cared for by the National Park Service and symbolize the nation that their sacrifices protect,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “This new pass is a way to thank military members and their families for their service and their sacrifices.”

National parks and the military have strong ties going back to the establishment of Yellowstone as the world’s first national park in 1872. The U.S. Cavalry watched over America’s national parks and did double duty, serving as the first park rangers until the National Park Service was created 44 years later. During World War II, many parks were set aside for the training and care of military personnel. Today, dozens of national parks commemorate military battles and achievements.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 397 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

###